

Jan 13, 1972

Dear Mom & Dad,

Your last letter got here 1 day after it was postmarked, which must be a record! It is very windy and rainy tonight and is supposed to turn cold tomorrow. Our winter has been very mild so far - no snow and highs over 60°.

Our hotel in Moscow was very modern with 5 large restaurants, bars, etc. The Russians do rave on furnishings, however. The rug was very thin and the furniture simple. There is no built-in shower, only a hand-held spray. Helsinki is much more luxurious and, I'm sure, a lot like Sweden. Their signs are in both Swedish & Finnish. We have been having a

good time telling friends about our trip. I got you & many little souvenirs in Russia and will mail them soon.

Vickie still has a little cough, but is well now. I stayed home one day and just charged it to leave-without-pay. It is pretty nice being able to take days off whenever I like. Also, we have received another pay raise this January.

The trip to the Mediterranean is still on and we will leave in 2 or 3 weeks. After I finish on the U.S.S. Independence Vickie will fly over and we will spend a few days in Greece. While on ship we collect pay for 16 hours (8 hour overtime) per day so two weeks duty

will pay Vickie's plane fare,
in extra pay.

Our slider should be ready
tomorrow and we are having
some friends over to see
them and try the Russian
wine and cognac we brought
back.

The train is a good thing
to have and I will see it
when we (hopefully) get home
in June.

Jim
